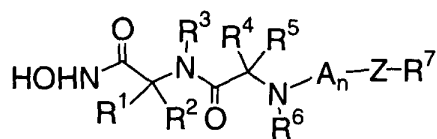


IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 30, 32-33 and 43-47

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 10, 16-18, 25 and 36-38 as follows:

1. (Amended herein) A compound selected from the group of compounds represented by Formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R¹ and R⁴ are, independently of each other, hydrogen or alkyl;

R² is: (i) cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aralkenyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaralkenyl, heterocyclo or heterocycloalkyl; or
(ii) -(alkylene)-B¹-X where B¹ is -O-, -NR⁸-, -S(O)_n- (where n is 0, 1 or 2), -C=O, -CONR⁸-, -NR⁸CO₂-, NR⁸SO₂- or -C(=NR⁸)NR⁸SO₂- (where R⁸ is H or alkyl), and X is cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl; or

(iii) -(alkylene)-B¹-X where B¹ is -NR⁸CO- (where R⁸ is H or alkyl), and X is cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl; or

(iv) R² and R³ form an alkylene or heteroalkylene chain;

R³ is hydrogen or alkyl;

R⁶ is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl;

R⁵ is:

(i) hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aralkenyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaralkenyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, or -(alkylene)-C(O)-X¹ where X¹ is alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, aralkyloxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy,

heteroaralkyloxy or NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently H or alkyl, or R' and R'' form an alkylene chain); or

(ii) R⁵ and R⁴ form an alkylene chain; or

(iii) R⁵ and R⁶ form an alkylene chain;

n is 0 or 1;

A is -C(=O)-CH(R⁹)-(CH₂)_m-N(R¹⁰)- wherein:

m is an integer from 0-5 inclusive;

R⁹ is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, or -(alkylene)-C(O)-X¹ where X¹ is alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxy, aralkyloxy, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkyloxy or NR'R'' (where R' and R'' are independently H or alkyl, or R' and R'' form an alkylene chain); and

R¹⁰ is hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl;

Z is Y-B² wherein:

Y is alkylene or a bond; and

B² is -CONR⁸-, -SO₂-, or -SO₂NR⁸- (where R⁸ is hydrogen or alkyl), alkylene (optionally substituted by hydroxy, alkoxy, amino, monoalkylamino or dialkylamino) or a bond;

R⁷ is cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl;

provided that when n = 0 and Z is SO₂, then R² does not contain an imidazole group; and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, prodrugs, individual isomers, and mixtures of isomers.

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A3 5. (Amended herein) The compound of Claim 4 wherein:
Z is -S(O)₂-.

A4 10. (Amended herein) The compound of Claim 8 wherein:
R⁷ is optionally substituted benzyl.

A5 16. (Amended herein) The compound of Claim 3, wherein:

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R² is (alkylene)-B¹-X where B¹ is -O-, -NR⁸-, -S(O)_n- (where n is 0, 1 or 2), -C=O, -CONR⁸-, -NR⁸CO₂-, -NR⁸SO₂- or -C(=NR⁸)NSO₂-(where R⁸ is H or alkyl), and X is cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl

17. (Amended herein) The compound of Claim 16, wherein:
Z is -S(O)₂-.

18. (Amended herein) The compound of Claim 17, wherein
R² is CH₂-B¹-X and B¹ is -NHCO₂- and X is benzyl.

25. (Amended herein) The compound of Claim 24, wherein:
Z is -S(O)₂-.

36. (Amended herein) The compound of Claim 23, wherein:
R² is (alkylene)-B¹-X where B¹ is -O-, -NR⁸-, -S-, -C=O, -CONR⁸-, -NR⁸CO₂-, -NSO₂- or -C(=NR⁸)NSO₂-(where R⁸ is H or alkyl), and X is cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl.

37. (Amended herein) The compound of Claim 36, wherein:
Z is -S(O)₂-.

38. (Amended herein) The compound of Claim 37, wherein R² is CH₂-B¹-X and B¹ is -NHCO₂- and X is benzyl.